Knowledge versus Wisdom –
Understanding the Difference from an Educator’s Point of View

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The pursuit of knowledge in some cultures is synonymous with bringing honor on the family. Those who teach knowledge are highly respected. It is certainly correct that knowledge empowers people and there are countless examples of people who on gaining an education have influenced their generation in some way or have changed the course of their society or even their world.

Yet, as virtuous as it may be to have knowledge, without wisdom, it can be dangerous. At worse, or a waste of time at best. Wisdom is best defined simply as applied knowledge. It is the ability to take what is known of the world and of people, things and places and to make choices based on that knowledge. Knowledge knows the facts about something, but wisdom knows best how to apply those facts to the real world and to add an understanding of right and wrong to that knowledge.

As educators, it is time to level up. We do not only impart knowledge, although basically, that is what we do and that is what is expected from us. However, once we learn to put wisdom into what we teach, surely, the impact of the learning would be more lasting. For example, if we are to teach a piece of reading to the students, say “The Three Little Pigs”. We do not end up entertaining the children with huffing and puffing, instead giving practical and true to life examples by which they can relate would be imparting wisdom. One point is being diligent like the third pig, we can ask the children who are conscientious to do their home work or help with house chores. Make it an interactive discussion where, at the end, the children will appreciate how it is to be rewarded by being safe from the “wolf” just by being hard working.

Wisdom can be imparted to any lesson. Be creative and you will see how putting wisdom into your lesson plan can serve the students best and develop your “wisdom” as well.

References:

http://www.differen.com/difference/Knowledge_vs_Wisdom
